REMARKS

By the current amendment, Applicant corrects a minor informality in claim 9, i.e. replacing "said third cam groove" with "said inner cam groove", to conform to the claim language employed in the remainder of the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that entry of the present amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.312(a) since it does not require any additional search and/or examination on the part of the Office.

Although this amendment is being submitted after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance and although amendments may not be made as a matter of right after the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, Applicant submits that the entry of the herein contained amendment is appropriate to ensure consistency in the claims and accordingly, respectfully requests the Examiner to exercise his discretion and to indicate the entry of the amendment contained therein under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.312(a).

The change introduced by the amendment contained above do not continue the prosecution of the application after the Notice of Allowance. Rather, this amendment merely enhances, strengthens and reinforces the clarity of the claims previously indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is submitted that this amendment is proper to enter at the present time.

The above amendment further does not require a substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. The Examiner has already considered the reasons for patentability of the present invention. No new issues are raised by the above-amendment. Accordingly, Applicant submits that under the criteria set forth in the M.P.E.P., the present amendments should be considered and entry should be recommended by the Primary Examiner.

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For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter the present amendment to the claims. Entry of the above amendment is believed to be appropriate and is respectfully requested from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Hiroshi NOMURA et al.

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